National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Membertou First Nation
Unama’ki (Cape Breton Island), Nova Scotia

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Deanna Sylliboy,
In relation to Annie Francis

Statement Gathered by Marie-Audrey Girard

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.
41 - 5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2
E-mail: info@irri.net - Phone: 613-748-6043 - Fax: 613-748-8246
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NOTE

The use of square brackets [] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Amendments were completed by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding and were made by Bryana Bouchir, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ, April 25th 2018 at Vancouver, BC.
Statement - Public 1
Deanna Sylliboy
(Annie Francis)

Membertou, Nova Scotia

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 9:21 a.m.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: This is Marie-Audrey with the National Inquiry. We are November 1st in Membertou. It is 9:21, and I'm in the room with --

MS. BARBARA BERNARD: Barbara Bernard, elder support.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yes, and?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Deanna Sylliboy.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yes. Well, I'll just put that here to make sure that we hear well what you will be telling us this morning. So, first of all, thank you so much for being with us this morning. We are really quite (indiscernible) that you decided to came (sic), so thank you very much.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: M'hm.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So my first question for you would be what would you like the National Inquiry and the commissioners to know today? What would you like to share with them?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I wasn't prepared for all this. Well, I don't know. I mean like it's been happening for decades and centuries, a century or more, but, you know, like when there's missing and murdered women
and children, it's like there is no justice, and I guess more has to be done like to put into more instead of just kind of sweeping it under the carpet type thing, which actually a lot of -- and I did follow it, so I stopped following it because it kind of really made me angry like that we're not treated as respectfully as we should be, right. Like I don't know. I'm just a lot more -- I don't know. There's like tons that can come from this, and I'm just like -- I don't know. I'm baffled I guess.

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And do you know anyone that had been, that what you're like discussing right now that happened to that person?

**MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY:** Well, like I know they're investigating like, for instance, Tanya Brooks. She was murdered, and just because people fear for their lives. You know, like the witnesses need more protection so that more cases can be solved. I know her mother tried everything, and she said it will keep going until it's solved, like her murder -- murderers come out, and -- and I know it's -- she's been doing it, and then she passed away, so now they're together, but, you know, it would still be nice to see justice for her.

Her sons, like they're very close with my sons, and they talk back and forth, and I don't know. I just kind of took them under my wing at times, and they
come around, and when I see them out and about in the public, and it's like, hey, how ya doing and try to keep them, but I really don't know the inside, like how they're feeling. Like I imagine they're feeling just as bad as I do, but, you know, it's really -- it's never a closure, I guess, for unsolved ones, right, and they need the closures.

But, no, as for me, I was a baby when my mother was murdered. Her case was solved, but the person only got five years for manslaughter, and he was -- and he walked after those five years, and my brother was taken. I didn't know her. I have a hard time finding her pictures, anything. I hear stories, but they're just stories to a faceless person.

I've grown up all my life looking for a ghost is what I was doing. I never got to feel that connection that I have with my daughter with my mother, so it's like a piece is missing, and I'm just going around the wind thinking what's best, and I know I got a lot of love to give out and I do for a lot of people, but, you know, it's -- it's just not the same like when you're adopted, and it's like it's there. Yes, they love you and everything, but that connection is not there.

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And can you tell us a little bit more about what happened to your mother
and, after that, if I can ask some questions about her as well. Like what exactly happened to her?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: She was -- I was told the story by somebody in New Brunswick, and he -- I don't know if his name was -- I'm not going to mention his name, though. We did kind of like a ceremony type thing, and he was having to relive what had happened, and he's like, What's this little girl -- what kind of wounds is she opening up for me, so -- 'cause he had to relive the whole events, and there was -- he says my mother was upstairs and he was up -- upstairs. He was just maybe ten years old while she was there, and she was with another man, not my father but another man, and he came upstairs, and I guess he was really jealous and a hateful man, and when they heard him come into the house, my mother told him to hide underneath the bed, so when he hid under the bed, this man came up and started arguing with her, and then he started hitting, and he said that he seen them scuffling back and forth, and then he just started hitting her more and more. They went out of the room. I can't remember the whole things this -- but he went out of the room and he threw her down the steps, and he continually to beat her very badly and to the point where she was almost dead, I guess. She didn't exactly die right then and there. She died on her way to the hospital.
And they searched for the man for the whole week, and when they did find him, he was hiding upstairs in a cubbyhole type thing in the house, like an attic or something like that, but it was like on the side wall, so they got him out, and then I've heard that he was only charged five years for manslaughter. I mean he got -- he walked, but my mother was gone. Like what kind of justice is that?

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And can you tell us a little bit more about your mother, how like -- like how big a family she had? What was their upbringing like?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I don't know. I guess she was a pretty good person. She -- she was kind of a protector herself, I guess, for the longest time and funny, loved to laugh, I guess, full of life. I'm just -- I can't remember all that much 'cause, you know, like you hear these stories, and it's like, okay, well --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And after that happened who took care of you and your siblings?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Well, my brother stayed with family, and I got adopted out. My stepmother passed away when I was eight years old. My stepfather passed away when I was 14, and I moved to Millbrook, and [Godmother], who is my godmother, and [L.J.] raised me from the time I was 14 'til -- they're still in my life.
Going into one family and then into another, and I mean you know the love is there and you want -- you want everything, but it's like I've always felt like I was an outsider. I don't know. I'm just -- I can't feel a connection with really anybody. As much as I love them, I just don't feel. Like that part is lost, so I can just imagine when other babies find out stuff and say this is your family, this is who you grew up with, and then you find out your blood family, and then you find out -- and then another family takes you in, and it's like having turmoil in your life, and [becoming at] (indiscernible) peace with everything and trying to be at peace, and then, you know, people tell me like, oh, your mom was a good person, your mom was -- would do anything for anybody, and I don't know. I'm just -- I wish I could have my mom hug me and tell me everything would be okay like I see my friends' moms doing to them, and I don't know.

It's just a lot of pain, but when you -- you know, like I'm happy that I'm still around because I can show my daughter and let her feel the love that I never felt. I don't know. I'm just trying to do the best that I can with life, I guess.

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And you mentioned your two sons and your daughter. Do you have other kids or is your family is two son and one daughter?
MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I have one daughter and four sons.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Four sons.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah, six grandchildren and one more on the way.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Oh, so it's a -- it's a big family.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Can you tell us a little bit about your family, like about your -- about your children?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Well, they drive me crazy. I don't know. They're funny. They're like -- okay. They're a lot of -- well, I started work a couple years ago in flagging, so, of course, my children decide -- I suggested they get a job and -- but three of my children are flagging with me. They don't like me for leaving them too long even though like they're getting bigger and -- you know, and having families of their own and -- but, yeah, they're funny and they like to joke around, and it's -- I don't know -- entertaining I guess. They're -- it's so many different personalities, but yet they all want mom, so they can never stay away for too long. My daughter, she don't -- she's a great mother herself. Like she has her husband, and she
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works alongside of me, but then she starts missing me 'cause she doesn't get to see me as often as she would like, but then she started working with me, and, Hey, mom, and, it's like, oh, okay. Why did the boss put us together? I told him I didn't want to work with my children, but anyway, it's okay 'cause we all have fun out there, and -- yeah.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Your children are around you. They're --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah. So I have to run away at times and break free and be by myself. You know, they're -- my son lived in Chapel Island for -- my oldest son lived in Chapel Island for a little bit, but he's back home now, and hopefully they'll get a house soon and live in their own house and I could have my house back to normal yet.

It's just a little joke for me. I love -- I love them all and their girlfriends and her husband, and they're -- like my grandchildren, like they make my life go around, and I love them all, and --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And you mentioned your older brother as well. Are you still in contact with him?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Yes?
MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah. His name is [Brother]. I'm not too sure if it's [Brother] -- well, I've always called him [Brother], but we don't talk much about our mom or anything that happened. We don't communicate like most siblings do. He is there when I need him, when I need to talk to him. Yeah, and we basically know about our lives as a face-front I guess. I don't know. And if one of us gets sick -- well, I just found out that I was his next of kin like last year. I was like really shocked about that, so -- I was like, What? He goes, I didn't -- no, no it's okay, but he's got real good people with him too, around him, and I don't know.

I'm just -- he's -- I was trying to contact him for this, and I have the wrong number, so he calls me. He has my number, so -- and I have him on Facebook, but, yeah, I work so much that I can barely think or try to get -- if I try to -- like when Andrea first got ahold of me, I was on the road with my cellphone, and, of course, I can't have a -- or be on the phone when I'm on the paddle, so I'll get back to you when I get on a break or something, but, you know, most times that's how -- like I'll just look, and it's like I'll call you back. It's like -- or who's calling me now like. Yeah. I'm on the road more than I am at home.
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: You mentioned before we started the interview that you were not sure like if you should come here or not, and --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah. I -- I debated on coming. I didn't know if I should or -- it was just when those -- do I want to open up all these wounds and tell the story or do I just want to keep it closed, keep moving forward.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And what ultimately made you decide to -- to come here?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I talked to my cousin Aggie, Agnes, and she said, You really should come, your mother is among the murdered and missing, so here I am.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And this is a really traumatic event that happened to you. Throughout your life have you ever received support or health support, counsellor or --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I didn't really talk about my feelings with counsellors. I didn't talk about a lot of stuff. I just -- what was the obvious is what I was talking about and never really trusted what -- let know what was on the inside. Yeah. I need a cigarette.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: We can totally take a break if you would like to.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah.
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Excellent. I'll just turn off -- so it's 9:43, and we are putting the recorder off.

--- Upon recessing at 9:43 a.m.

--- Upon resuming at 9:58 a.m.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And this is Marie-Audrey from the National Inquiry. We are in Membertou November 1st. It's 9:58, and I am in the room with?

MS. BARBARA BERNARD: Barbara Bernard, elder support.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Deanna Sylliboy.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Thank you very much. Now, when you were talking about your children and grandchildren, so like can you let us know how old are they exactly just to have an idea of like a big -- a big picture of your family?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: My oldest grandchild is going to be nine in nine days.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Oh, okay.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah, and they range 'til -- well, we're still waiting for one to be born.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And how old are your kids?
MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: 24, 22, 20, 18, and one will be 17 soon on the 25th of this month.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: I see. It's a beautiful family, very large family. That's great. I'm the only kid, and sometimes I feel a bit lonely.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah, being an only child and -- I don't know how that would feel.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

MS. BARBARA BERNARD: And I have 14.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Oh.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So the mandate of the National Inquiry is to find about the system and cause of violence against indigenous women and girls, so I have some questions now, and maybe they're a little bit difficult questions, so if you feel uncomfortable like replying to them, just let me know and we'll -- I will switch your question.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Okay.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So I was wondering if -- to the best of your knowledge if you are aware if at any point your mother suffer any kind of abuse during her life.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I'm not too sure. I'm not really comfortable answering that.
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: No problem. No problem at all, and I will have a similar question about yourself is at any point of your life when you were a kid or during your teenager time or your adult life did you suffer any kind of abuse? That could be emotional, physical, sexual, psychological abuses.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I've suffered sexual assault, sexual abuse with my adopted -- my stepbrother and his friends. I don't know the discipline. I'm not sure. I'd get switches and my hair -- like after my second mother passed away, my father went with another woman, and like I was -- when I got grounded -- at times her daughter would ground me and lock me up in a room only to be let out for supper and going to school. Her -- my father's girlfriend would like -- pulled my hair, and I don't know. I was really rotten, though, towards them. I didn't want anybody else like to step in as being my mom, I guess. I mean I was really -- gave them a really hard time, and then it just -- like as an adult, I know why you need another human to be -- I can understand that, but I mean I don't know.

I've gone through a lot, and that's a part of me that I don't like to let out. My -- when we lived in Chapel Island, my parents drank, and I could -- they had -- there was parties. I can remember people being drunk around me, and like there was their friends that took
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me away from it to -- until they sobered up and come and get me, take me back home. I don't know. It must have been like a normal thing back then 'cause it seemed like everywhere -- most everywhere that I have went, there was drinking and some kind of abuse that I've seen going on, and I could --

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And the abuse you were talking, you were mentioning, do you know if your parents were aware of it from your stepbrother or was it ever reported to police or was there any action that was taken?

**MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY:** It actually was after my mother passed away that it came out. I'm not too sure how it happened. I can't exactly remember, but it was -- it was while we were in Membertou actually when it came out when my stepbrother was doing this to me, and we did go to court for it, and I don't know what he got, what -- what happened or I don't know if he was just put on probation or --

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And how old were you -- were you when that happened?

**MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY:** Well, it started out when I was like four or five and didn't stop 'til I was 11.

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Okay. It went on for a long time, and you were still young, so to the best
of your knowledge how did the police deal with the
investigation and the court case, and like what was the
institutional response to (indiscernible)?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: They asked me
questions -- I can remember that -- and I told them. I
can't remember exactly the questions. That's -- like I
said, I blocked out a lot of stuff, and, yeah, there's -- I
don't know. I'm just -- alls I can remember is a big
courtroom, and we went into court, and I had to testify and
had to point him out, and it was just overwhelming, I
guess, as a child, so it's really --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And have you
received support after that because it's quite traumatic.
It must have been quite difficult.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: No.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: No? And is there
something that you think you would like to seek for after?
Do you think it's -- you will need support or how do you
feel about that?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: It was then, in the
past, and a lot of keys to my growing up was forgiveness.
I forgave everybody that has hurt me in any way, and it's a
big release, and I find if you hold onto the anger, then
you're just going to be miserable, and I don't hold onto
it.
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: I see. [I understand] (Indiscernible). You look like a really strong person.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I guess when you're growing up and, you know, you go through a lot of things in life and growing into adulthood, and then it's like you -- I was like angry with God for the longest time, angry, just angry. Why did you take my mom? Why? And so a lot of why's got kind of answered in some ways, and then it's like why was I put on this earth? Why did I come? Why was I born? But there's a reasoning for everything, so they say. I don't know.

I guess my reasoning is to help a lot of people that do suffer and try to make sense of everything, and my life's became too, okay, I'm here for a reason. What is it? Then I became to helping -- like finding my spirituality sides and spiritual side of my life, and I started questioning, okay, well, what's this? Why -- you know, like just normal curiosity questions, and -- and then when I finally went into a sweat, and that was really healing and helpful, and you forgive a lot of things, the bad things that has happened to you, and it's a big release. You're not angry anymore. You're not -- you're not miserable anymore. You let -- you just let God take care of things, like the Creator. You hand over -- I hand
over all my problems to him and just take them, and I don't know. I guess the more you hand over, the less you have to deal with. Not really -- you want to deal with -- you want to help as your children are growing and try to keep the bad stuff away and protect them what all you can or try to, and so it's really a lot of struggle. I don't know. I'm just trying to be at peace, laughter and sit down and be serious when I have to be and --

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And what kind of change would you like to see in the future for Indigenous women and girls? What do you think are the priorities?

**MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY:** Well, a lot -- need a lot more help than, you know, to -- a lot of people have -- I don't know how to say this, but like they -- I always tell people forgiveness is the key, and for some, maybe they do need the extra support and seek out the support that they need, especially when there's somebody like my cousin Virginia Pictou. She's missing, and, you know, it's unsettling that there's no closure, so, you know, we try to think where she could be or -- you know, and then you hear lots of stories about stuff, and it would just be nice to just -- if she is found dead or alive, you know. People need closure.

**MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And when did Virginia went missing exactly?
MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I think it was April or (indiscernible) February. I know the year's '93, and I think it was April or -- Agnes would be able to --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So in April '93 or in the year '93.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: In the -- in --

MS. BARBARA BERNARD: I'm not sure, but I think you're right, it's in April '93. I don't know the exact date either, but it can -- it can be verified by Agnes.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah. Okay. Yeah. So yeah. You know, like I could feel her pain because there is no closure for them, and when you don't have a closure, that wound stays open.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Of course. Closure is important.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: M'hm.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And can you tell us a little bit about Virginia and what happened to her?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I'm not too sure what happened with her. She will be -- her sister is here, her two brothers, and they're --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: -- testifying to that and making statements, so --
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay. No, no problem.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I just -- alls I know is just we would like her to be found and so we can, you know, feel the relief, I guess, and be able to mourn properly and whether she's alive or dead. Like if she's alive, great. If she's dead, then, you know, it's --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: To know, just to know.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah. It's the unknown that's unsettling.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So maybe if you continue talking before asking Virginia, what do you think are the priorities right now for women and -- women and girls -- Indigenous women and girls? Sorry. So you talk a little bit about more help, some extra support. Do you have any other opinions or ideas that you would like to share with us?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Well, I would -- you know, I think there's more -- people would feel more comfortable if it was on the cultural side, like to see counsellors that are the same race that understand. You know what I mean like?
MS. BARBARA BERNARD: Related to our culture and our --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah, and like --

MS. BARBARA BERNARD: (Indiscernible).

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: -- just be -- so we need more of our indigenous women and men that can help heal in the process, I guess, and not a lot go through this field, I mean a lot go to school to go be a counsellor or -- you know, 'cause physician and everything, but the best kind I would think would be the ones that had lived it --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: -- the ones that would really understand where they're coming from, and, you know, don't need a certificate to sit down and understand what somebody is telling you, so, you know, like normal everyday people that want to help, that can reach out or -- you know, like I always say, well, a lot of people have come to me and talked to me. I've listened to them, and that's what I did. I listened and not -- tried to let them talk about their hurt, and then I would try like, okay, well, what if we did this or what if you did this, and I'll tell them a little bit of my problems, and it's not very much, but, you know, just to give them a clue that, yes, I've been in your shoes. So I think there needs to be more of
that like within the communities and the cultural part of everything and -- because if you live it, then you know.
You understand it --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: -- instead of having a degree and going by what the book is trying to tell you, right, so --

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: For myself today, that's the question I wanted to ask you. I was wondering if there's anything else that you're thinking or that you would like to share today with us and the Commission.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Well, my brother was accidentally shot. His name was Ronald. If my mother was still alive, I think I would know my brother, I would remember him, and like I know my older brother and -- but it would be nice to have known him too.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: When did that happen exactly?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Oh, my Lord. I wish I would have been able to contact my brother 'cause he knows more 'cause he's the old -- he's -- he's the oldest, and my other brother that was shot was the middle child, and I'm the baby, so, you know, I think it was in the seventies, '70 -- maybe around '75. I'm not too sure but just --
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And do you know -- to the best of your knowledge -- I know you were still real young when that happened -- do you know how he was shot exactly? You told us it was accidentally, but do you have a little bit more details about what happened?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: There's a few stories going around, so I really don't know. I've heard that they were playing cops and robbers or they were going hunting and my oldest cousin grabbed his father's rifle, which was still loaded and he didn't know it was still loaded, and got shot. Like -- like I don't know the exact details.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: M'hm.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: But I mean I think it's eating away at my cousin, but -- you know, for doing it. I mean like how do I -- the justice system may fail you, but the Creator won't. Like with my mother's murderer, he may have gotten five years from the justice side, but on the spiritual side he had hate, so he was life-sentenced.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And have you heard of him after or do you know if --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I know he's -- he died, and I know that his body was held for two weeks at the morgue, and that's -- and that's all I know, and it's like good, you know.
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So we were talking a little bit about what you think can be better for future, so like you've been talking about the justice system during our interview.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: M'hm.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So do you think there are anything that they should --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Well, there should be -- everything is about fairness these days, right? Yes, manslaughter. Back then it's like, oh, well, it's another Native gone. Today maybe get 10, 15 years, but there will never be any sort of justice when a person is taken from you. They can't right what has been taken. Yes, you get to see a little bit of justice that happened to that person, but the hurt -- the hurt goes on forever until you die. There is no -- I guess there is no real justice, and then people are scared to come out and -- if they have witnessed. No, I didn't see nothing. People are scared to talk. People are scared to -- like you know, why should you be scared? Why are you fearing for your life? Why? If it's going to help a family, talk. If it's going to -- you know, like you did the wrong. Why are you running? Like, why are you getting people to cover for you like unless there is no conscience with them.
MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Do you -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: I know there's people trying to find justice for a lot of stuff, and I guess it's the knowing. They want to know instead of the unknown, and the real justice comes when you know what happened.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: You mentioned that your brother may have some information. Do you think -- do you think he would be interested in giving a statement? Because we won't be here. Like the Commission, the National Inquiry won't be here, but we still will have someone here that will be taking statement. Do you think he would be interested in providing a statement?

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Might be. I'm not too sure. I would have to ask him.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Okay, or if anyone else would like to provide their statement as well. As a Commission we won't be here anymore, but we have someone that could take the statement, and, as you said, your brother looked like he has other kind of information --

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: M'hm.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: -- so that could be as well interesting to receive a statement and to know about him.
MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: M'hm. Yeah, for sure. I'll ask him when I head back towards home. Just give me a card or something that I can hand to him.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: Excellent, and I was wondering if there's anything that you would like to share, if you have anything else that you would like to share with me and with the Commission this morning, and if something comes to your mind at one point, you can give us a call, and, as I said, there will be someone, so if you want to add something to your statement at one point, it's a possibility because I know quite -- it could be quite overwhelming in the morning to think about all those things, so if at one point you think about something else that you would like to add, you're more -- more than welcome to do so and to get in touch with the person that will be here.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah, for sure. I can't really think of anything right now, but, you know, I just hope that all these stories and more is done to the missing and murdered like.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: And -- yeah. So really thank you so much for sharing your story and let us know about your mother as well. I know it has been many years now that she left, that she has been gone, but thank you. It's important for us to know about her, about you.
and about, you know, what women and girls -- indigenous women and girls have to go through and how we can like changes (sic) things for a better future. I know you weren't sure you wanted to come this morning, but really really grateful myself that you came and that you shared this story with us.

MS. DEANNA SYLLIBOY: Yeah.

MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD: So if it's okay with you, I will turn the recorder and the video camera off and -- yes. So it is 10:27. So it's 10:27, and interview is done.

--- Upon adjourning at 10:27 a.m.
I, Shawn Hurd, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Shawn Hurd

March 7, 2018